

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-07 IO-13
USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-04 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-02 ABF-01 IGA-02 DODE-00 L-03 /091 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:GADIES/AFR/SFWA:HFARNHAM:LFS

APPROVED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH

AFR/SFWA:DSHEAR (DRAFT)

FFP/FDD:SFRENCH (SUBS)

OFDA:RCLARY (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 310280

PARIS FOR HELMAN, ABIDJAN FOR REDSO, OECD FOR STACY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, CD

SUBJECT: FOOD AID FOR CHAD - REQUEST FOR AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE

REF: NDJAMENA 3572, 3606

1. DEPT AND AID/W IN TOTAL AGREEMENT THAT AIRLIFT SHOULD BE USED ONLY RPT ONLY IN CASES WHERE A) ALL ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF TRANSPORT HAVE BEEN EXPLORED AND HAVE PROVED CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPRATICABLE, AND B) DANGER OF SEVERE HUMAN SUFFERING EXISTS IF AIRLIFT NOT USED. SINCE PLANNING FOR MOVE- MENT OF FOOD AID TO CHAD OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS IS STILL IN PRELIMINARY STAGES, AID/DEPT DO NOT BELIEVE USG SHOULD COMMIT ITSELF AT THIS TIME TO ASSISTANCE FOR AN AIRLIFT. AID/W RECALLS THAT DURING PREVIOUS EMERGENCY

RELIEF OPERATIONS IN CHAD, OVERLAND TRANSPORT WAS ABLE TO REACH LARGE MAJORITY OF END-USE CENTERS. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER LAND TRANSPORT TO EASTERN AND NORTHERN CHAD FROM N'DJAMENA POSSIBLE THIS YEAR.

2. IF MATTER AGAIN RAISED BY GOC, SUGGEST YOU REPLY THAT USG IS CONCERNED BY PLIGHT OF CHADIAN POPULATION, AND IS PREPARED TO ASSIST THE GOC ALLEVIATE FOOD SHORTAGE PROBLEM. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, WILLING TO CONSIDER AIR-LIFT IN CHAD AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO MOVE COMMODITIES INTO POSITION PRIOR TO RAINY SEASON. AS AN EXAMPLE, DEPARTMENT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHY TRADITIONAL, NON-AIRLIFT METHODS OF GRAIN DELIVERY - CAMEL CARAVAN FROM ABECHE TO NORTHERN AREAS, OR BY TRUCK FROM NDJAMENA AND SOUTH TO ABECHE, MONGO, AND ATI - ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE SUFFICIENT DELIVERIES PRIOR TO THE MARCH/APRIL PERIOD. IS PROBLEM ONE OF NON-AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT, OR NON-AVAILABILITY OF GRAIN TO MOVE? IN EVENT OF LATTER, GRAIN IN PIPELINE AND GRAIN ARRIVING N'DJAMENA PRIOR TO RAINY SEASON COULD BE MOVED BY CONVENTIONAL MEANS THEREBY ELIMINATING OR SHARPLY REDUCING NEED FOR AIRLIFT. USG WOULD BE EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER AIRLIFT IN CHAD TO MEET PRESENT OR FUTURE EMERGENCY UNLESS CONVINCED GOC AND INTERNATIONAL DONOR COMMUNITY HAD MADE EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO ACQUIRE AND DELIVER FOOD TO STRICKEN AREAS THROUGH NON-AIRLIFT TRANSPORTATION PRIOR TO RAINY SEASON.

3. FYI: AID/W CONSIDERING GRANT TO FAO/OSRO FOR
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DOLS 500,000 FOR EXPLICIT PURPOSE BUYING FOOD IN CHAD AND/OR NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND MOVING SAME TO DEFICIT REGIONS. AID/W INFORMED OSRO INVESTIGATING PURCHASE 2,000 MT MILLET IN SUDAN AND TRANSPORT TO ABECHE TO HELP MEET FOOD DEFICIT THAT AREA. WE SUPPORT PLAN IN PRINCIPLE BUT WISH LEARN MORE ABOUT TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES FROM CHAD BORDER TO ABECHE WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, WAS REASON FOR DOWNFALL SIMILAR WFP SPONSORED SCHEME IN PAST. IN EVENT OSRO HAS NOT INFORMED GOC THEIR PLAN, REQUEST EMBASSY/USAID TREAT AS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION.
END FYI. DECONTROL 12/31/77.

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